

REMARKS

The drawings and specification are objected to for confusion between element 60 and 60'. The specification is hereby amended to eliminate the confusion. The drawings are amended to show Fig. 1 as prior art. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 19 and 26 are objected to for including terms lacking antecedent basis. The claims are hereby amended to provide antecedent basis for the terms. Claim 14 is rejected as indefinite because the reference to the light source is not clear. Claim 14 is hereby amended to specify that the light source referred to is the primary light source.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, 15, 17, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutchison (US 3,471,225) in view of Szymber (US 3,672,757) and Heaney et al. (US 3,639,048) and Shishido (US 4,538,062). Claims 3-5, 7-12, 16, 18-22, 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 15 (the independent claims) are hereby amended to specify that the reflective photonic probe includes at least one input optical fiber and at least one detection optical fiber that are cleaved and polished flat normal to their fiber axes and mounted parallel and at a fixed spacing relative to each other. Support for this amendment is found at page 8, lines 3-10, no new matter being added. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

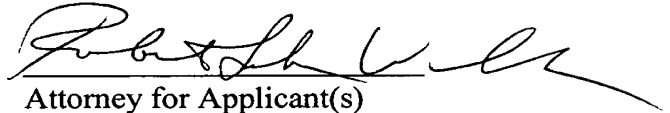
As claimed in independent claims 1 and 15, Applicants' invention employs a reflective photonic probe having at least one input optical fiber and at least one detection optical fiber that are cleaved and polished flat normal to their fiber axes and mounted parallel and at a fixed spacing relative to each other. None of the references cited by the Examiner show the use of such a reflective photonic probe to measure the deflection of film in a film gate. The Examiner takes official notice that optical fibers are well known in the art for coupling optical elements, but does not show where the art suggest using a reflective optical as defined in claims 1 and 15 for measuring the deflection of film in a film

gate. It is believed therefore that claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the prior art. The remainder of the claims depend from claim 1 or 15 and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Replacement Figure 1
Copy of Letter to Official Draftsperson
10 Sheets of Formal Drawings Figures 1-10